BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

)))
Case No. 800-2017-031369
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DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on September 29, 2017.

IT IS SO ORDERED September 22, 2017

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Kimberly Kirchmeyer

Executive Director

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1	XAVIER BECERRA	· /	
2	Attorney General of California ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
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10	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
11	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
12	DATALLE OF C		
13	In the Matter of the Accusation/Petition to	Case No. 800-2017-031369	
14	Revoke Probation Against:		
15	HYGIN THYKOOTATHIL ANDREW, M.D.	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF	
16	303 W. Bluff Avenue Fresno, CA 93711	LICENSE AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
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1	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. No. A 38710	·	
.18	Respondent.		
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21	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-		
22	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:		
23	<u>PARTIES</u>		
24	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board		
25	of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in		
26	this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Janusen Tan,		
27	Deputy Attorney General.		
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- 2. Hygin Thykootathil Andrew, M.D. (Respondent) is representing himself in this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.
- 3. On or about July 12, 1982, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38710 to Hygin Thykootathil Andrew, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38710 was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 800-2017-031369 and will expire on January 31, 2018, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 800-2017-031369 was filed before the (Board), and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on June 19, 2017. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation. A copy of Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 800-2017-031369 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 800-2017-031369. Respondent also has carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation; the right to be represented by counsel, at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 800-2017-031369 and that he has thereby subjected his license to disciplinary action.
- 9. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for reinstatement of his/her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38710, or if the Board ever petitions for revocation of probation, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 800-2017-031369 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by respondent for purposes of that proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving respondent in the State of California.
- 10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Executive Director of the Medical Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's License No. A 38710 on behalf of the Board, without further notice or opportunity to be heard.

RESERVATION

- 11. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.
- 12. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the Medical Board "shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a stipulation for surrender of a license."
- 13. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to approval of the Executive Director on behalf of the Medical Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Executive Director for her consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Executive Director shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation,

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Respondent fully understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the time the Executive Director, on behalf of the Medical Board, considers and acts upon it.

 The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Executive Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving Respondent, In the event that the Executive Director on behalf of the Board does not, in her discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 15. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.
- 16. The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, including copies of the signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents

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 and signatures and, further, that such copies and signatures shall have the same force and effect as originals.

17. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the Executive Director of the Medical Board may, without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order on behalf of the Board:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38710, issued to Respondent Hygin Thykootathil Andrew, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Medical Board of California.

- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's License No. A 38710 and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Medical Board of California.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Physician and Surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 800-2017-031369 shall be deemed to be true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition. However, the allegations may be deemed to be true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent solely for the purposes of the Board's determination as to whether to grant or deny the petition and may not be used and are not intended to be admissions in any other proceeding.
- 5. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of

California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation/Petition to Revoke
Probation No. 800-2017-031369 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and fully admitted by
Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny
or restrict licensure. However, the allegations may be deemed to be true, correct and fully
admitted by Respondent solely for the purposes of the Board's determination as to whether to
grant or deny the petition and may not be used and are not intended to be admissions in any
other proceeding.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38710. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED: 9-11-2017 HYGINTHYKOOTATHIL ANDREW, M.D.
Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Dated: 9/11/2717 Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA

Attorney General of California

ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ

Supervising Deputy Attorney General

JANNSEN TAN
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 800-2017-031369

STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO June 19 20/7 BY: L. Vody ANALYST

XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California 2 ALEXANDRA M. ÁLVAREZ Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 JANNSEN TAN Deputy Attorney General 4 State Bar No. 237826 1300 I Street, Suite 125 5 P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 6 Telephone: (916) 445-3496 Facsimile: (916) 327-2247 7 Attorneys for Complainant 8

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BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation Against:

Hygin Thykootathil Andrew, M.D. 6335 N. Fresno St., #101 Fresno, CA 93710

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. No. A 38710,

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2017-031369

ACCUSATION AND PETITION TO REVOKE PROBATION

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

- 1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation (Accusation) solely in her official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).
- 2. On or about July 12, 1982, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38710 to Hygin Thykootathil Andrew, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on January 31, 2018, unless renewed.

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PRIOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

3. On July 31, 2014, in the case entitled "In the Matter of the Accusation Against: HYGIN THYKOOTATHIL ANDREW, M.D.," Case No. 08-2011-216445, Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was revoked, but the revocation was stayed. Respondent was placed on five (5) years probation with terms and conditions that included a Medical Record Keeping Course, Clinical Training Program equivalent to the Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program (PACE), Practice Monitoring, and standard terms and conditions as contained in the Board Model Disciplinary Guidelines.

JURISDICTION

- 4. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.
 - 5. Section 2227 of the Code states:
- "(a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:
 - "(1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.
- "(2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon order of the board.
- "(3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon order of the board.
- "(4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the board.
- "(5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.
- "(b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters, medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations, continuing education

activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are agreed to with the board and successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters made confidential or privileged by existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made available to the public by the board pursuant to Section 803.1."

6. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

"The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.
 - "(b) Gross negligence.
- "(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.
- "(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- "(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.
 - "(d) Incompetence.
- "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
 - "(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate.
- "(g) The practice of medicine from this state into another state or country without meeting the legal requirements of that state or country for the practice of medicine. Section 2314 shall not

apply to this subdivision. This subdivision shall become operative upon the implementation of the proposed registration program described in Section 2052.5.

- "(h) The repeated failure by a certificate holder, in the absence of good cause, to attend and participate in an interview by the board. This subdivision shall only apply to a certificate holder who is the subject of an investigation by the board."
 - 7. Section 822 of the Code states:

"If a licensing agency determines that its licentiate's ability to practice his or her profession safely is impaired because the licentiate is mentally ill, or physically ill affecting competency, the licensing agency may take action by any one of the following methods:

- "(a) Revoking the licentiate's certificate or license.
- "(b) Suspending the licentiate's right to practice.
- "(c) Placing the licentiate on probation.
- "(d) Taking such other action in relation to the licentiate as the licensing agency in its discretion deems proper.

"The licensing section shall not reinstate a revoked or suspended certificate or license until it has received competent evidence of the absence or control of the condition which caused its action and until it is satisfied that with due regard for the public health and safety the person's right to practice his or her profession may be safely reinstated."

<u>CAUSE FOR RESTRICTION AND/OR REVOCATION</u> (Mental or Physical Illness Affecting Competency to Practice Medicine)

- 8. Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 38710 is subject to action under section 822 of the Code in that his ability to practice medicine safely is impaired because he is mentally or physically ill affecting competency, as more particularity alleged hereinafter.
- 9. During the periods of April 23 to 24, 2015, and August 22 to 26, 2016, Respondent attended PACE as part of his probation conditions. PACE provided a report which detailed that Respondent did not possess a sufficient knowledge base in internal medicine. PACE also recommended a fitness for duty neuropsychological evaluation due to Respondent's poor performance in the "Microcog" section of the PACE evaluation.

- 10. On or about February 17, 2017, Respondent was referred for a neuropsychological evaluation by the Board. Respondent was evaluated by a Board clinical neuropsychologist (Dr. G).
- 11. Dr. G. found that Respondent's pattern of deficits includes: variable attention and sustained concentration; limited grapheme/phoneme association; below average strength in the upper extremities bilaterally; slowed visual-motor integration speed for over-learned materials; dysnomia with phonemic and sematic paraphasic errors; variable rate of information processing speed; and significant challenges with executive functioning requiring profiting from feedback, color naming speed, set-shifting flexibility, and nonverbal problem solving and categorization.
- 12. Dr. G. also found that Respondent made a significantly high number of errors of perseveration and intrusion on memory measures, despite demonstrating very well developed/preserved encoding, storage and retrieval of novel information. Dr. G. added that Respondent may also be suffering deficits in judgment and insight.
- 13. Dr. G. opined that this pattern of deficits is indicative of a bilateral frontal nidus, the etiology of which is unclear.
- 14. Dr. G. concluded that it is with reasonable neuropsychological certainty that Respondent's pattern of deficits would directly impact his ability to practice safely as an interventional cardiologist or internist at this time.
 - 15. On or about May 15, 2017, Respondent was referred for MRI imaging.
- 16. On or about May 24, 2017, Respondent was referred for a neurological evaluation by the Board. Respondent was evaluated by a Board clinical neurologist (Dr. M.)
- 17. Dr. M. noted that during his interview, Respondent stated that his 30-day mortality rate was up and that the problem was that he had to deal with very high risk patients. Dr. M. noted that Respondent has global cerebral volume loss (atrophy) that is frontoparietally predominant. Dr. M. stated that the MRI imaging matched the neuropsychological testing performed by Dr. G. Dr. M. emphasized that the concordance between occupational performance, imaging and functional testing leaves little doubt about the diagnosis of frontal dementia, historically known by the eponym of Pick's Disease. Dr. M. concluded that Respondent was not